

JLARC at a Glance

Fiscal Year 2012

Agency Head

Glen S. Tittermary, Director

Staff

28 employees

FY 2013 Budget

\$3.3 million

Total Cost of JLARC Operations 1975-2011

\$70.5 million

Cost Savings from JLARC Work

\$713 million

(a more than \$10 return on every dollar
invested in JLARC)

Location

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ABOUT JLARC



JLARC
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
AND REVIEW COMMISSION

WHAT WE DO

- Evaluation and policy analysis of state agencies and programs
- Oversight of the Virginia Retirement System, the Virginia College Savings Plan (new oversight function in 2012), the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, internal service funds, state spending, proposed mandated health insurance benefits, state spending on the educational Standards of Quality, and higher education management agreements
- Fiscal analysis of legislative bills
- Special investigations

OUR OBJECTIVES

Inform Legislators JLARC reports provide information that legislators can use to make policy decisions and respond to questions or requests from constituents.

Help Improve Government Efficiency and Effectiveness Most JLARC reports contain recommendations for how state agencies and programs may become more efficient and effective.

Help Ensure Compliance With Legislative Intent Oversight helps ensure that laws are being carried out as the Legislature intended.

Recommend Ways to Achieve State Agency and Program Savings Since 1975, more than \$700 million in savings and new revenue for the state has been attributed to changes in agency operations or programs that were made on the basis of JLARC recommendations.

OUR RESEARCH PROCESS

Topic Selection A study begins when the Legislature identifies a topic for review. The General Assembly typically directs studies by passing joint House or Senate resolutions or including language in the Appropriation Act.

Research The project is assigned to a team of JLARC staff which identifies the study issues and the research approach to be used. The team then conducts the research, which may include interviews, data collection and analysis, surveys, site visits, and literature reviews.

Reporting A draft report prepared by the study team is reviewed internally, then distributed to appropriate agencies for their review. A revised draft which contains agency comments is presented to the Commission at a public meeting where the team leader summarizes the study findings. After the Commission authorizes the report's publication, it is distributed to the General Assembly, the Governor, and others.

Follow-up Every two years, agencies report to us what actions they have taken to implement the recommendations in JLARC reports, and any savings that have been realized as a result. Highlights of their responses are in our biennial *Report to the General Assembly*.

SELECTED RECENT STUDIES (2011)

Review of the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission

Discussed how the commission charged with using a portion of tobacco settlement funds to help revitalize Virginia's tobacco-dependent localities could use those funds more effectively

Strategies to Promote Third Grade Reading Performance in Virginia

Examined ways to improve reading skills of 3rd graders

Review of Retirement Benefits for State and Local Government Employees

Reviewed current retirement benefits for state employees; presented options for modifying defined benefit plan provisions to reduce future costs to the state and an alternative plan that could be introduced

These and other JLARC reports, presentations, and fact sheets are at <http://jlarc.virginia.gov>

Review of the Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators

Reviewed and suggested improvements to the process by which sexually violent predators are involuntarily confined after they have served a prison sentence

Mitigating the Risk of Improper Payments in the Virginia Medicaid Program

Investigated errors, abuse, and fraud in Medicaid and discussed how to reduce the risk

Review of the Effectiveness of Virginia Tax Preferences

Evaluated whether tax preferences intended to achieve public policy goals are effective

COMMISSION MEMBERS (2012)

Members include nine delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House, five senators appointed by the Senate Rules Committee, and the nonvoting Auditor of Public Accounts. Members elect a chair and appoint the staff director, whose appointment is confirmed by the General Assembly.

Delegate John M. O'Bannon III, Chair*

Senator John C. Watkins, Vice-Chair**

Delegate David B. Albo

Senator Charles J. Colgan**

Delegate M. Kirkland Cox*

Senator Janet D. Howell**

Delegate Johnny S. Joannou*

Delegate S. Chris Jones*

Delegate James P. Massie III*

Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.**

Delegate Robert D. Orrock, Sr.

Delegate Lacey E. Putney*

Delegate Lionell Spruill, Sr.

Senator Walter A. Stosch**

Walter J. Kucharski, APA, *ex officio*

* Also serves on House Appropriations Committee

** Also serves on Senate Finance Committee